



Massachusetts Employment Report

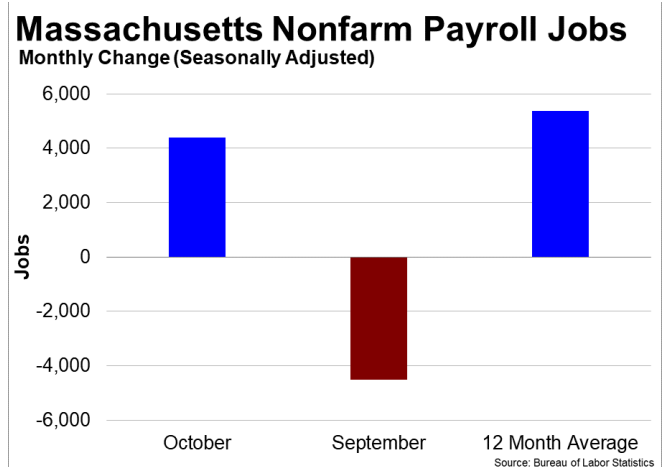
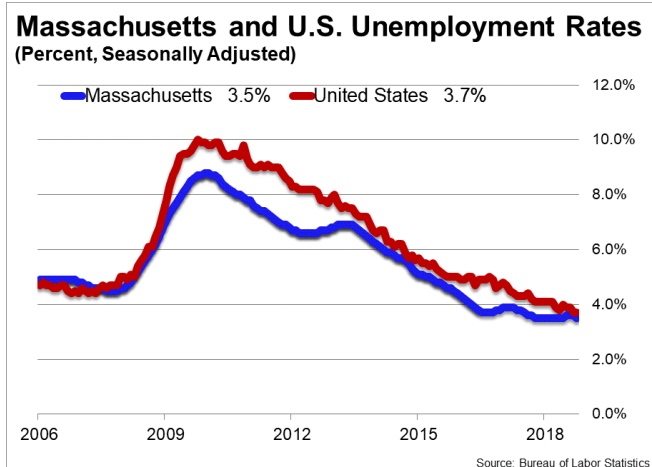
Joint Economic Committee

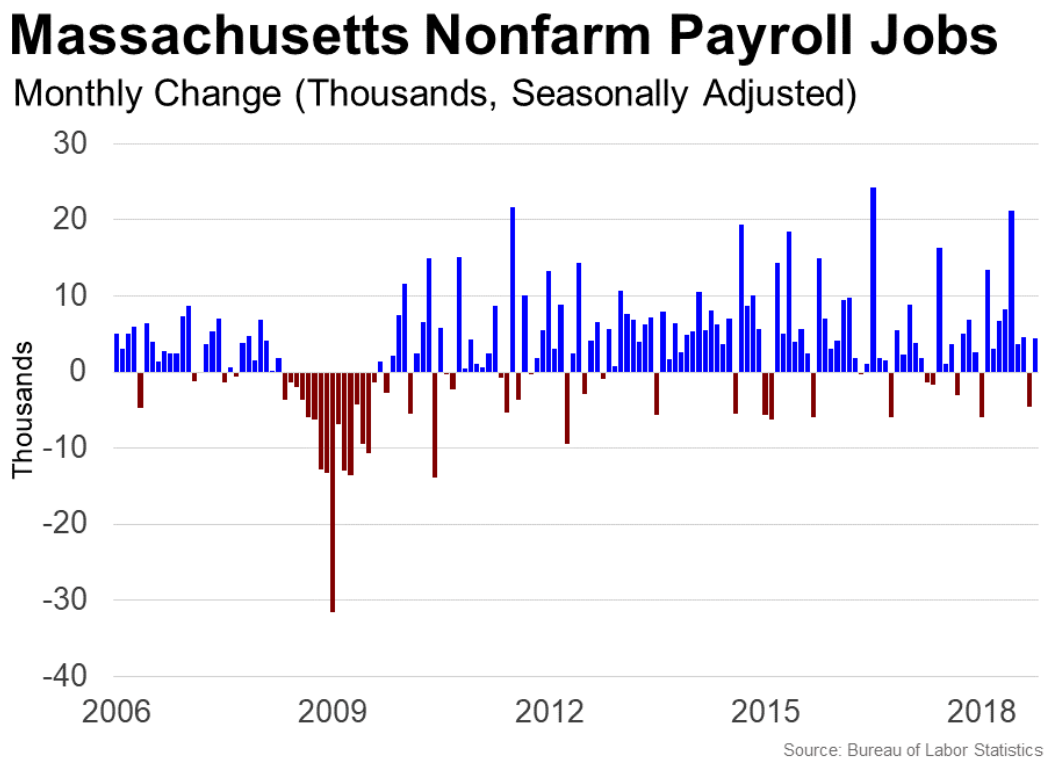
Representative Erik Paulsen, Chairman

November 16, 2018

Summary

- **Massachusetts added 4,400 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5 percent in October** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Massachusetts added 64,400 jobs** and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5 percent.
- **In October, Massachusetts's private sector added 4,700 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 64,100 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Massachusettsans fell by 1,735 in October**, and over the past year 169,578 Massachusettsans found jobs.
- Massachusetts's **labor force participation rate increased to 68 percent** from 67.8 percent in October. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 2.6 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **was unchanged at 3.7 percent in October**. State employment and unemployment data for November is scheduled for release on December 21, 2018. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 7, 2018.





Massachusetts Payroll Employment

Massachusetts added 4,400 jobs, or 0.12 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, Massachusetts lost 4,500 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 64,400, or 1.78 percent. Massachusetts nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

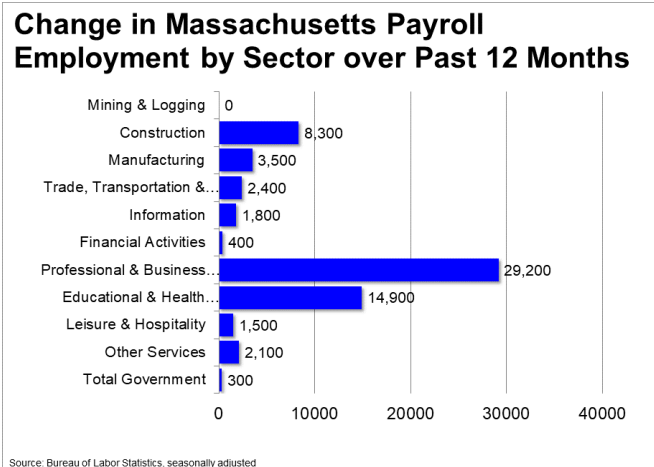
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 250,000 jobs in October, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending October 2018, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,516,000 jobs, or 1.71 percent. Massachusetts ranks 15th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Massachusetts's private-sector added 4,700 jobs, or 0.15 percent. The private-sector in Massachusetts lost 3,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 64,100, or 2.02 percent. Massachusetts private-sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 246,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,450,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.96 percent. Massachusetts ranks 16th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Educational & Health Services (+2,200) and Professional & Business Services (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Financial Activities (-400) and Leisure & Hospitality (-400).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+29,200) and Educational & Health Services (+14,900). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (unchanged) and Total Government (+300).



Massachusetts Labor Force Statistics

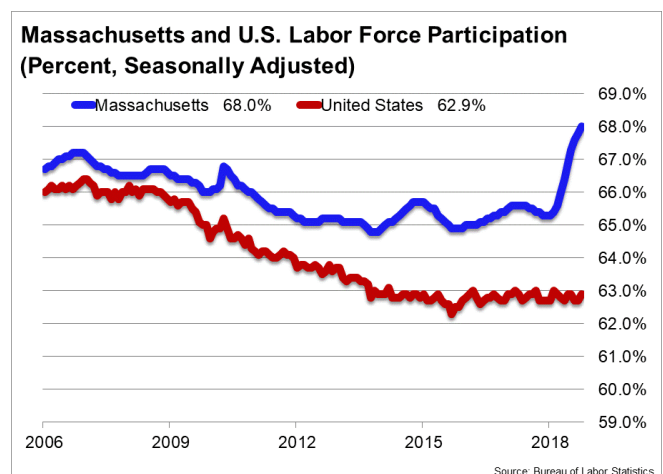
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts rose to 68.0 percent in October from 67.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 have a higher labor force participation rate than Massachusetts. The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts was 68.0 percent in October 2018. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.8 percent in December 2013. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1977 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent. The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in October, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Massachusetts civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and



older counted as employed, rose to 65.6 percent in October from 65.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Massachusetts. The employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts is 2.5 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts was 65.6 percent in October 2018. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts occurred in January 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.2 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 58.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.2 percentage point to 60.6 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

